

1 THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY
2 OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

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- 4 1. A system of extracting a visual feature from a dataset, comprising:
- 5 (a) display means for displaying said dataset;
- 6 (b) means for defining a block of voxels corresponding to a selected portion of said
- 7 displayed dataset, said block containing said visual feature therein;
- 8 (c) means for removing from said block voxels not containing said visual feature, to
- 9 generate a feature block;
- 10 (d) means for generating a mask from said feature block; and
- 11 (e) means for rendering said dataset using said mask.
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- 13 2. A method for extracting a visual feature from a dataset representing an image of an
- 14 object, said method comprising the steps of:
- 15 (a) displaying said dataset;
- 16 (b) defining a block of voxels corresponding to a selected portion of said displayed
- 17 dataset, said block containing said visual feature therein;
- 18 (c) removing from said dataset voxels not contained by said selected portion, to
- 19 generate a feature block;
- 20 (d) generating a mask from said feature block; and
- 21 (e) rendering said dataset using said mask.
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- 23 3. An article of manufacture comprising:
- 24 (a) a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied
- 25 therein for extracting a visual feature from a dataset representing an image of
- 26 an object, the computer readable program code in said article of manufacture
- 27 comprising;
- 28 (b) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to display
- 29 said dataset;
- 30 (c) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to define a
- 31 block of voxels corresponding to a selected portion of said displayed dataset,
- 32 said block containing said visual feature therein;

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- 1 (d) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to remove
- 2 from said dataset voxels not contained by said selected portion, to generate a
- 3 feature block;
- 4 (e) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to generate a
- 5 mask from said feature block; and
- 6 (f) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to render
- 7 said dataset using said mask.